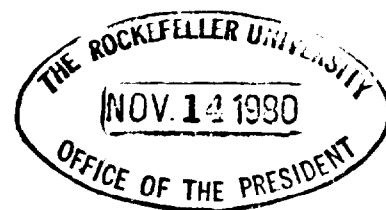




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY RESEARCH OFFICE
P. O. BOX 12211
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NORTH CAROLINA 27709



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

DRXRO-CB

10 November 1980

Dr. Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg: ✓

Dr. Sherry Tove has asked me to write you since I am responsible for our program in neurotransmitter research. This follows your recent discussion with her concerning possible research interests of staff members of the Rockefeller University.

There is a very great need for an improved understanding of the biochemistry and physiology of neural systems to improve our capabilities to prevent or to treat casualties in the case of a future use of chemical weapons. Potential agents involving the cholinergic systems are, of course, of greatest immediate concern since they are highly toxic and life threatening. A good deal of work at the basic and applied levels is currently supported by several military agencies and by the NIH.

We anticipate that the future need for information will also involve other systems whose actions are mediated by transmitters other than acetyl choline. These include systems that modify or control transmission in primary action neurons, behavior control and secondary effects of the so-called organophosphorous nerve agents. These may well be the cause of chronic or delayed action effects from non-lethal intoxications.

We shall be pleased to review proposals for basic research in these areas to build a data base of necessary basic knowledge for future needs. We strongly recommend that initial contact be by informal letter outlining research objectives and approach prior to preparation of a formal proposal.

If I can be of assistance to you and members of the university please contact me at your convenience. My telephone number is (919) 549-0641.

Sincerely yours,

FRANCIS W. MORTHLAND
Chief, Biological Sciences Program
Chemical & Biological Sciences Division